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## Board of Trustees Executive Committee May 23, 1983

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UNIVERSITY OF MAINE - BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Executive Committee  
Bangor Community College  
May 23, 1983

PRESENT: Chairman Thomas Monaghan, Francis Brown, Patricia DiMatteo, Joseph Hakanson, Richard Morin, Harrison Richardson. Other Trustees: Richard Marshall, Peter Johnston. Faculty representatives: Rodney Cole, Harry Kerr, Sharon Zimmer-Boucher, Ralph Jans, Douglas Allen, Carol-Ann Hall. Student Representatives: James Bowers, Christina Fornili, Edmund Lindemanis, Kathleen Hunt. Staff: Chancellor McCarthy, William Sullivan, Harlan Philippi, Constance Carlson, Frederic Reynolds, Hilton Power, Judith Sturnick, Paul Silverman, Robert Woodbury, Richard Eustis and Russell Smith.

Mr. Monaghan convened the meeting which is regularly scheduled to provide an opportunity for faculty and student representatives to comment on the Board's agenda or on other issues of interest to them. Since the agenda was light there were no comments on business items for the meeting but Professor Allen said he had several other questions and he was invited to discuss those concerns.

Professor Allen asked if it would be possible for the Administration or the Board to take a position on the so-called Solomon bill, which is pending before the Congress. Among other provisions, the bill would require proof of draft registration before students could receive federal financial aid. Mr. Monaghan reported that he had asked the Chancellor not to release a statement he had prepared opposing the bill. Mr. Monaghan said he thought a public statement would be perceived as the Board's position on the bill which he considered inappropriate since the Trustees have not discussed the issue. President Silverman reported that the U.S. Department of Education has withdrawn the verification provision and the bill itself will probably be withdrawn as well. The legal position of the courts, along with other actions, have generated substantial resistance to the proposed legislation and it now seems unlikely that it will be submitted again. Mr. Richardson said he would have been in favor of the Board taking a position against the bill but he concurred that the Chancellor should not make a statement before the Trustees have an opportunity to discuss the issue.

Professor Allen recalled action taken by the Board last July to divest its holdings in corporations doing business in South Africa. In accordance with that action, the University of Maine Foundation was invited to consider divestment as well. Professor Allen reported that there has been no response from the Foundation on this issue. He said he was aware that Trustees have no authority over the Foundation but he thought the Foundation Directors should be urged to consider the matter seriously. Mr. Brown, who serves as Trustee liaison to the

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Foundation, pointed out that many of its Directors are investment and financial managers who are sensitive to the need for maximum returns on donor contributions. Mr. Richardson said he thought it would be improper to suggest that the Directors had not taken the matter seriously. President Silverman noted that the Directors are charged to obtain optimum yields on investments and would consider this their first responsibility. He indicated that some of the Directors are sensitive to the social issues, however. He said he thought it was not a good time to press the matter and suggested that as changes occur in the Foundation's membership, it may be more receptive to divestment.

Chairman Monaghan asked the group to consider whether more of the Board's meetings should be held on the Campuses. During discussion, the Presidents and the faculty and student representatives supported the concept of meeting on Campuses as often as possible and it was agreed that five meetings would be held on the Campuses in the coming year.

There was discussion of the Board's committee structure. Professor Allen said the faculty were interested in having the standing committees revitalized and voting privileges accorded to the non-Trustee members. Mr. Monaghan said the Board has found that the current practice of addressing its agenda in plenary session enables and encourages maximum participation by the Trustees, and he wouldn't be in favor of returning to the committee system as it was used previously, for routine discussion of every item on the agenda. He noted that it would be acceptable to use the committees more in some areas. Mr. Brown said the committees could be used for discussion of complex studies and suggested that Committee Chairmen schedule meetings at least once per quarter. Mr. Richardson recommended that committee meetings be held in conjunction with the Board meetings to insure as much participation as possible. Mr. Monaghan invited the representatives to write him about any other suggestions they might have.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

JoAnne R. Magill  
Clerk